

**Empie Tennis Polar Bear Singles/Doubles/Mixed Doubles Challenge
Ladder RULES
2011 Winter Season**

2012 Tennis Ladder Seasons: January-March

(Winter Challenge Ladder)

The Empie Tennis Polar Bear Singles/Doubles Challenge Ladder is a great way to meet more players at your level, play at your own convenience, and stay in shape during the winter months!

Join the Empie Tennis Polar Bear Singles/Doubles Challenge Ladder TODAY!

Activity is the key to the ladder. You may play as many times as you would like during the week. Although, you must play at least once a month to remain active on the ladder. Players are responsible for arranging their own matches. You may challenge any player on the ladder regardless of ranking. All challenges must be accepted and played within three weeks. One of the challenge option dates must include a weekend or night unless both participants waive this right. A rematch cannot occur unless you have played three others on the ladder.

Divisions: Men's and Women's Singles (Open, 2.5- 3.0, 3.5-4.0)

Men's Doubles: (Open, 5.0-6.0, 6.5-7.5)

Women's Doubles: (Open, 5.0-6.0, 6.5-7.5)

Mixed Doubles: (Open)

USTA Membership not required

Registration Fee: \$20 (Includes Singles and Doubles Ladders)

Deadline: December 17, 2011

Challenge Ladder begins: Monday, January 3rd and ends on Thursday, March 31st. Playoff for the top 8 players in each division will be Saturday, April 9, 2012 at the Althea Gibson Tennis Complex with food and refreshments.

To Register: Go to www.empiepark.com and download an online registration form. You may email it to info@empiepark.com, fax it to: 910-341-4639, or stop by the Althea Gibson Tennis Complex Clubhouse to drop it off. Once you pay the registration fee at the clubhouse or over the phone with a credit card, your log-in and password will be created for you. .

Qualifications: Players must be 18 or older to play, unless you play in the open division and/or have been approved by the AGTC Tennis Staff.

Match Rules: All matches must be the best two out of three sets unless both parties agree beforehand to a 3rd set tie-breaker.

Court Reservations: The challenger is responsible for making court reservations for play at sites requiring a reservation. Challenge matches do not have to be played at the Althea Gibson Tennis Complex at Empie Park. All City of Wilmington tennis courts (MLK, Legion, Greenfield, and Maides Park) may be used and are free on a walk-up basis. Reservations at the Althea Gibson Tennis Complex must be made 2 days in advance, and will be made in the challenger's last name. Court reservation fees are not included in the cost of the Challenge Ladder. Challenge Ladder matches may also be played at country clubs, but if the challenger is not a member there you would have to let them know in advance of any extra court fees that they might have to pay.

Match Balls: For singles, each player is responsible for bringing a new can of balls to the match. One can is opened for the match, and the winner of the match takes home the unopened can. For doubles, the challenging team provides the balls.

Reporting Scores: The winner of the match is responsible for submitting the scores on the Tennis Ladder Web Site.

Rankings: Rankings are calculated using the following formula.

Max difference in rank:	10
Points for challenger:	2
Max points for loser:	10
Points for winner if lower-ranked:	15
Points for winner if tied in rank:	20
Points for winner if higher-ranked:	10

The number of points received by either player for a match is rounded up to the nearest whole number. As an example, suppose Ted, ranked 9, challenges and defeats Bill, ranked 5, with a score of 6-3, 1-6, 6-4 during week 7 of the ladder. Ted would receive 2 points for challenging, 15 points for the upset, and $(5 * 4) / 2 = 10$ bonus points for games won, for a total of 27 points. Bill would receive 10 points for playing, since the cap is 10 by default. The rankings would not include the match results until the end of week 7.

Rating Your Ability:

Players will determine which division they would like to play in by using The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) below. A player may play at their level or above their level.

The National Tennis Rating Program

General characteristics of various Playing Levels:

- 2.5 – This player is learning to judge where the ball is going although court coverage is weak. This player can sustain a short rally of slow pace with other players of the same ability.
- 3.0 – This player is fairly consistent when hitting medium paced shots, but is not comfortable with all strokes and lacks execution when trying for directional control, depth or power. Most common doubles formation is one-up and one-back.
- 3.5 – This player has achieved improved stroke dependability with directional control on moderate shots, but still lacks depth and variety. This player exhibits more aggressive net play, has improved court coverage, and is developing teamwork in doubles.
- 4.0 – This player has dependable strokes, including directional control and depth on both forehand and backhand sides on moderate shots, plus the ability to use lobs, overheads, approach shots and volleys with some success. This player occasionally forces errors when serving. Rallies may be lost due to impatience. Teamwork in doubles is evident.
- 4.5 – This player has begun to master the use of power and spins and is beginning to handle pace, has sound footwork, can control depth of shots, and is beginning to vary game plan according to opponents. This player can hit first serves with power and accuracy and place the second serve. This player tends to overhit on difficult shots. Aggressive net play is common in doubles.